

156 **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

157 Claim 1 - 16 (canceled)

158 Claim 17. (New) A materials retaining berm system comprising:

159 a. at least three elongated panels each having a top edge, bottom edge,
160 first and second faces, first and second ends, and first and second joining
161 means located on the first face at said first and second ends; and

162 b. said joining means being joining hooks further comprising a portion fixedly
163 attached to and extending from said first panel face a portion fixedly attached to the
164 distal edge of said extending joining hook portion and spaced apart from said first panel
165 face, and extending toward the center, and approximately parallel to said first
166 elongated panel face, thereby forming a slot for receiving a joining clip; and

167 c. at least three joining clips for removably joining two said panels, said
168 joining clips having first and second end portions adapted to engage said
169 extending portion of the joining hooks of adjacent panels and to occupy
170 the slots; and

171 d. whereby said panels connected by said joining clips define an enclosed
172 space for retaining materials therein.

173 Claim 18. (New) The materials retaining berm system of claim 17 where said joining
174 means is a channel oriented transversely to the axis of said elongated panel for
175 receiving a cooperating joining clip; and

176 at least three joining clips for removably joining two said panels, said joining clips
177 having first and second end portions bent approximately at right angles to a portion
178 extending between and attached to said end portions, where said end portions of said

179 joining clips cooperate with said channels to join two said elongated panels.

180 Claim 19. (New) The material retaining berm of claim 17 where said joining clip
181 is comprised of a central portion having retro bends of approximately 360
182 degrees on opposing ends of said central portion, thereby forming hooks adapted
183 to cooperatively engage the inward facing hooks on the ends of said elongated
184 panels.

185 Claim 20. (New) A materials retaining bin comprising:

186 a. at least three elongated panels each having a top edge, bottom
187 edge, first and second faces, first and second ends, and at least one panel
188 joining hook pivotally attached to said first face in the proximity of an end and
189 extending beyond the end of said first face; and

190 b. and at least one hook engaging means attached to said first face of
191 each elongated panel in the proximity of an end; and

192

193 c. where said pivoting hooks on a first elongated panel engage said
194 hook engaging means on a second panel, thereby securing first and second
195 elongated panels to each other to form a portion of a bin structure.

196 Claim 21. (New) The materials retaining bin of claim 20 where the hook
197 engaging means is a ring attached to said first face of a first elongated panel and
198 adapted to engage said pivoting hook attached to a second elongated panel,
199 thereby securing two elongated panels to each other to form a portion of a bin
200 structure.

201 Claim 22. (New) A materials retaining bin comprising:

- 202 a. at least three elongated panels each having a top edge, bottom
203 edge, first and second faces, first and second ends, a thickness; and
204
205 b. at least one aperture in the proximity of each of the first and second
206 ends; and
- 207 c. when two elongated panels are oriented with an overlapping of
208 adjacent ends, said apertures are aligned to receive a clamping means for
209 holding the two overlapped ends together; and
210
211 d. whereby a materials retaining bin is constructed by joining a
212 plurality of elongated panels.

213 Claim 23 (new) The materials retaining bin of claim 22 where said apertures are
214 rectangular in shape.

215 Claim 24 (new) The materials retaining bin of claim 22 where said apertures are at
216 least one notch in said top edge of said elongated panel..

217 Claim 25 (new) The materials retaining bin of claim 22 where said apertures are at
218 least one notch in said bottom edge of said elongated panel.

219 Claim 26 (new) The materials retaining bin of claim 22 where said apertures comprising
220 an elongated first portion having width and length, and a second portion having a
221 width larger than the larger than the width of said first portion, where the two portions
222 together comprise a key-hole shape.

223 Claim 27 (new) The materials retaining bin of claim 22 where said apertures comprise
224 a. at least one notch in said top edge and at least one notch in said bottom edge,
225 both in the proximity of said first end of said panel, and at least one notch in said top
226 edge and at least one notch in the bottom edge, both in proximity of said second end
227 of said panel; and

228 b. said at least one notch in proximity of said first end and said at least one notch
229 diagonally opposite in proximity to said second end, each further comprising a hook
230 attached to the notch; and

231 c. said hook at the first end extending approximately perpendicular to said first
232 face a distance at least the thickness of said elongated panel, and said hook in
233 proximity of said second end extending approximately perpendicular to said second
234 face a distance of at least the thickness of said elongated panel and each extended
235 portion further comprising a further extending portion approximately parallel to said
236 panel first face and extending in the direction of the opposite edge of said panel; and

237 d. when two elongated panels are oriented with the first end of one panel
238 overlapping the second end of another panel, said end notches of one panel are is
239 coaxially aligned with said end notches of the other panel and said hooks
240 cooperate with the notches not having hooks to hold the two panels together.

241 e. whereby a materials retaining bin is constructed by joining a plurality of
242 elongated panels.